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Lastly, the obvious error is to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.<sup>9</sup> Here too, the language is so plain and the reference is so plain, that no honest mind can mistake it; for, in every reference Bible you will find in the margin that for the "acceptable year" we are referred to the tenth verse of the twenty-fifth chapter of Leviticus—"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Thus, you know was the celebrated year of jubilee, which occurred every forty-ninth year; and had we as a nation obeyed this law, this express command, the days of slavery would have been long ago numbered. This command, then which had been neglected, and which, as expressed in this verse, our Saviour came to reinforce, is so clear as to need no comment. I therefore leave off as I began, and ask, with all its warnings and solemnities, when you consider the remarks we have just read, of all others from Genesis to Malachi was the one chosen by our Saviour as the subject of the discourse when you see that it prohibits, in every part, so clearly and unequivocally that Lill it will

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of "fictional" kidnap in 6899

LAFAYETTE, Ohio, March 21, 1890

BRO. GOFFELL:—I send you what strikes me as the strangest development of these strange times.

You are aware that the Legislature of Ohio, has recently undertaken to supply a palpable deficiency heretofore existing, by the enactment of a law against kidnapping.

The State Journal, in introducing this law to its reader states as its object, that it provides safeguards only for free states, without the least intent or provision to interfere with the legal rights of the slave owner. He does not say whether or he will go to the Slave Code, or to the Bible and the Declaration of Independence for his definition of "freeman" nor does he condescend to enlighten us, as to what "the legal rights of the slave owners" are, or on what they rest whether upon statute or on purchase, or if the latter, whether they included those purchases made by "our Southern brethren" last year, from the "cargo of the Wanderer," and other such piratical crafts.

The Journal further saith that "this bill provides in brief (1.) That there shall be no more slaveholding in Ohio, that is, strictly according to the Constitution" (meaning, doubtless, the State Constitution). (2.) That there is to be no more kidnapping in this State "than is required by the Constitution of the United States, and by Federal Legislation." Please to note the progress of our odious in the science of Constitutional interpretation, or rather *intep[re]tation*. We have before us; it argues that the Constitution sanctions slavery we have now made the profound discovery that kidnapping is Constitutional, and is *required* by that instrument.

But the climax is yet to come. The crimes and punishments prescribed and denominated by this act are: (1.) Holding slaves in the State of Ohio (2.) selling or arresting, or attempting by fraud or force, to arrest any person as a fugitive from service (3.) kidnapping or selling, or attempting to seduce, persuade, or any of a person into slavery (4.) referring to the three sections embracing these crimes, so that all are covered by one law.

ness the same and the similarity of the two countries. While we fully recognize the moral and political advantage in the representation of their country as afflicted by an epidemic in these circumstances, we are not ashamed to say that we are every day suffering and from the same source. Only that of local conditions preventing the extension of slavery, together with positions of readiness to admit new slave States, of all sorts of representations of the aggressions of slavery, connected with plagues not to interfere with its aggressions upon the rights of four millions of native Americans! While such phrases and such representations move? Where are there a whit less rebellious and bold, than an assault against kidnapping even up to the latest legislation of the persons chiefly needing protection from seizure, as we have the one of these, we shall have the other. As long as we have colonies of religious fanatics, who build up their subscription lists on the merits of their anti-slavery, while they care not to say that slaveholding is every day sinful, so long as we have politicians who make life odious on the merit of their eloquent denunciations against slavery, and the slave power, and yet exert claims expressly authorising some of the worst features of it, the Free States.

Despair has ruined some, but redemption ruin's undone.  
Cheap is the service of virtue, and yet how dearly we pay  
for vice!

Envy cannot see; ignorance cannot judge.









